



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH PRESS RELEASE

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

Office of Communications

*Karen Black
410-767-6490/91*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Maryland Health Benefit Exchange Board Holds 5th Meeting New Data on Uninsured Confirms Importance of Exchange

Baltimore, September 20, 2011 -- Maryland's Health Benefit Exchange Board held its fifth regular meeting today as new data highlighted the importance of state efforts to increase access, control costs, and improve outcomes.

The Census Bureau last week reported that 733,000 Marylanders under the age of 65, or 14.5% of this population, lacked health insurance throughout 2010. In 2009, the Census Bureau found that 741,000 Marylanders under the age of 65, or 14.8%, lacked health insurance. By comparison, 18.4% of Americans lacked health insurance in 2010, compared to 18.2% in 2009.

"While it is encouraging that our efforts to expand access to health insurance have helped keep Maryland's uninsured rate stable and below that of many other states, there remain far too many in our state without health coverage," said Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown, co-chair of Maryland's Health Care Reform Coordinating Council. "Our progress in establishing a transparent and competitive health benefit exchange is critical for providing the affordable health insurance that so many families, individuals and small businesses still need. We must continue moving forward with work to implement federal health care reform in order to expand access, reduce costs, and improve the quality of care for all Marylanders."

For the cited data, see table HIB6 on this website:

http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins/data/historical/HIB_tables.html.

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